

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed March 25, 2004, Applicants cancelled claims 1-6, 14 and 15, amended claims 7-13 and added new claims 16 and 17. Claims 7-13, 16 and 17 are presented for examination.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 7-13 cover *in silico* screening methods. The U.S.P.T.O. has specifically addressed the patentability of such claims. (See Comments of the USPTO to the Trilateral Report WM4 at pages 69-74.) In particular, the U.S.P.T.O. has stated that claims covering *in silico* screening methods correspond to statutory subject matter. (See id. at page 71, note A1.) Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101.

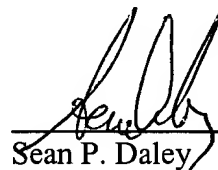
The Examiner rejected claims 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Ljunggren (U.S. 6,228,990). However, Ljunggren does not disclose a crystal structure of ER- β having a resolution of 1.83 Å or less, as required by claims 7-13. Applicants therefore request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance, which action is requested. Enclosed is a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, along with a check to cover the associated fee. Please apply any other necessary charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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